

## KLICKITAT COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 3

200 Husum Street, Husum, WA 98623  
SPECIAL MEETING - FOR CAPITAL BOND  
Wednesday June 5, 2019

GOAL #1: *Improve overall turnout, response and initiation times for emergency incidents and improve WSRB rating*

GOAL #2: *Improve safety program, equipment and training for all KCFD#3 operations and activities*

GOAL #3 *Improve sustainability, capabilities, continuity of operations and emergency response at KCFD#3 facilities*

GOAL #4 *Execute standardization and upgrading of emergency fire suppression, EMS and rescue equipment and fleet*

GOAL #5 *Reset regular operating budget to facilitate staffing and full funding of Fire District amortization schedules*

GOAL #6 *Improve Fire District "all risks" training capabilities*

**Called to order:** 13:20

Special Meeting/workshop with members of the Citizens Task Force regarding the planning for Fire/EMS response in the community. Topics include Review of the Bond Capital Projects,

### **Attendance:**

Commissioner Montag, Commissioner Connor, Commissioner Virts,  
Chief Long, Rozalind Plumb, Robert Merritt.

Task Force: Lloyd Olson, Debbie Olson, Lance Beckman, Sandy Montag, Melinda Heindel,  
David Roth,

Public: Sverre Bakke (The Enterprise), Eric Bosler, Carla Gebelin

Commissioner Montag handed the meeting over to Project Manager Robert Merritt and Chief long. Commissioner encouraged everyone present to ask questions throughout the meeting. This is not a decision-making meeting – it is to share information and seek input from the group to move forward in the right direction

- 1. Capital Projects:** Robert Merritt is heading the Capital Building projects. He reminded the group that this started in 2013 with the inception of the Citizens Task Force.
  - We are still in the discovery stage- researching options.
  - Principals and mileposts – we have a good foundation but have further to go before we head in a specific direction – the task force report was a key milestone and laid out the goals that now steer the district.
  - Robert Merritt’s role today is to facilitate and encourage any questions and concerns.

- He has a lot of experience with building stations (he has built 10) and highlighted that any building projects will be around for a long time into the future. They need to be built and upgraded to outlive the 20-year bond payments.
- The goals for the district (listed above) were set out by the Citizens Task Force. They are the driving force for the District and the Bond.
- The Task Force strongly recommends solving problems regionally.
- The Task Force put forward 12 recommendations.
- The board adopted the recommendation and established the goals (above).
- Several of the goals require significant financial backing and that is what lead us to the Bond
- Now we are in the discovery phase and will leave no stone unturned. Before we move on any particular plan, we are checking all the possible options available that may be beneficial to the district.

**2. Capital Purchases.** Chief Long is heading up the purchasing section of the Bond.

- Purchases are based on a comprehensive matrix of needed items.
- Each item on the capital purchase list is categorized by the goal it achieves and then a priority rank is applied.
- SCBAs (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus mask and air tank packs) that the firefighters require to safely enter a burning building are currently out of date. While they are still functional the wear and tear on them at some point becomes a safety issue for the volunteers putting their life as risk. Chief hopes to purchase these in August. – SCBAs will be coordinated with local agencies, White Salmon received a grant for new SCBA and we would be foolish to not be compatible with them.
- PPE – turn outs – some are good, some are out of date. Chief has been reaching out to vendors.
- Apart from the pick-up trucks there have not been many purchases.
- Anything over 10,000 will be put out for bid.
- EMS heart monitor is about 25,000. Our current monitor will no longer be supported by the manufacturer.
- Communications- our fleet of radio equipment is aged and inadequate. The number one safety issue in any incident is communications. Chief is looking into options to solve some of the problems – he noted we have put in for a grant and if we are successful that will be a boost and bond funds can be spent somewhere else. However, we are not reliant on grants. That is an unreliable way to carry out business.
- Questions arose around regional compatibility of equipment – That is still a goal for the district to be compatible with the neighboring agencies. Chief also

mentioned that they are looking at avoiding duplicity of equipment. Underwood Fire, White Salmon Fire, and KCFD3 have called vendors in and are collectively looking at engines – if the 3 districts can coordinate then there can be significant savings in cost for the purchases, and at the same time standardization of equipment between the districts.

- Chief asked anyone with questions to ask him and come to him at any time.
- He commented that the spend down on the Bond funds is something we are tracking carefully to ensure compliance with the State and the bank. We have to have the percentages of the funds committed to specific projects throughout and within a 3-year period.
- Lance Beckman asked about the potential to fund equipment for water rescues. Chief explained that he is looking at ensuring the district has the capacity to keep volunteers safe along the waterways. However, we are not able to commit to a full swift water rescue team at this time. The County does have this ability through Klickitat County Search and rescue.

### 3. Capital Building Projects; Robert Merritt

- Response time maps – Robert discussed the maps that show the response times of 8, 14 and 20 minutes from each station. This shows that our current station locations are quite good for coverage. However, the times assume there is someone at the station. In a volunteer system the responder has to get from home to the station and this adds time. The goal is to update the facilities to accommodate personnel in the future, and be able to decrease response times.
- Need for Engineers and Architects. – Melinda and Andrew Heindel have been helping Robert to sort out the needs. It is not thought that an architect will be needed but that will depend on the final plan for the buildings.
- Fleet survey (Accommodations) –WAC 296.305 for Fire stations mandate a minimum of 3 ft between vehicles and walls. Many of our vehicles are much closer than that. That means we need to build more space into the designs.
- Property surveys- In a previous meeting the Commissioners approved moving forward with surveying the properties. Robert has several quotes from survey companies and requested the Commissioners approve hiring Klien and Associates with a quote of \$7620.00. (Noted it was without sales tax).  
***Motion to approve hiring Klien and Associates for \$8173.00 made by Commissioner Virts, seconded by Commissioner Connor, 3 yay 0 nay motion passed.***
- SEPA and other permits – Robert has been in contact with the County Planning Department to gather information on what will be required to follow through with building adjustments. It was discovered that the Husum and Cherry Lane

sites are not permitted. It was recommended that District write a letter to the County Commissioners requesting a waiver of fees for the required permits.

- Given the location of Station 32 and the issues associated with setbacks from the creek, the County advised the district to focus on Stn. 31 at this time.
- Mount Adams: Chief Long noted that in the process of leaving no stone unturned, as chief he is looking at all events that may affect the fire station and equipment. Research shows that Station 31 is in the path of historical mud and lava flows from Mount Adams. We need to consider this before we invest taxpayer money into station 31 knowing it is inside a debris flow area. Are there other options? Chief also noted that in 1996 the river was so high that debris was touching the bridge. If one or both of the bridges in Husum were to be destroyed it would cut off the station from everything. Debbie Olsen noted that the potential for an earthquake is also a significant concern. If we were starting from scratch where would you place a fire station? Probably not at the current site in Husum.
- DNR – Chief discovered that DNR in Husum is scheduled for \$2million in facility updates. DNR need buildings for offices and to be able to house firefighters that are prepositioned for wild fire. Chief has reached out to DNR and they are receptive to open discussions and explore if there are any mutual benefits to be had from coordinating. Perhaps a joint use facility is an option that will benefit both agencies. Questions arose about what benefits would there be for the district to have DNR crews on site? Could they respond for the district? No, but they would be available for Wildland fires during prime fire season and improve response times. Ideas about leveling the gym and having new facilities purpose built to house fire fighters would match the district's goal of providing sleeping quarters to improve response times to calls.

**Capital Building projects.** While we have just discussed optimal locations of critical infrastructure, there is still a station needed in Husum. With no other options the existing station requires critical upgrades to meet WAC and operational needs of the district. Support facilities include decontamination stations, work areas, 24 hour quarters, extractor equipment, admin and records storage, emergency power generator. (Both stn 31 and 32 need similar elements but without a use permit the county has told the district to focus on stn 31). Currently stn 31 can be divided into 3 areas – west end is admin, middle is operations and the east end is not of particular use for the district apart from the bathrooms. Merritt has used the current plan and designed 3 options:

- Stn. 31 requirements include several necessary elements for operations. Merritt gave 3 examples of how we could change Stn. 31 to accommodate the required elements.
- Option1 had few support services like training props, no place for storage, or laundry, and does not address the lack of space around vehicles.

- Option 2 removes the corridor (672ft) and makes it part of the bay, doing that gives space for some but not all of the needed elements. However, it also means public have to walk through the bays to get to the bathrooms (operations areas should be off limits tot eh public), and does not give all the elements.
- Option 3 uses the current Admin space for operational functions and moves Admin to a modular building placed next to the station. This option accomplishes most of the elements.
- Other ideas include knocking down the bay section as removing walls may create structural issues. Rebuilding with a steel structure would also address earthquake issue. The cost of such a rebuild is not known.
- Discussion about costs included questions about how much it would cost to for a new build verses rebuilding elements of the existing building (which is 60 years old).
- Also noted was the fact that Husum is not central for the district. Husum is not the best location as headquarters for the district.
- Discussion about solving issues regionally included the fact that the citizens (not the fire departments) need to address this issue. The citizens need to request the move towards regional services to save tax funds (by reducing duplicity) and coordinating efforts for the service they want. This is not about kingdom building – this is about providing an effective service.
- IF there was a new building in a central location (probably at a cost of 10million, which is well beyond the debt capacity of the district) it would result in the need for a much simpler station in Husum – Merritt said he would build 3 bays with a small office and a couple of bathrooms.
- Sverre Bakke asked at what point in time could we refinance the Bond. After seven or eight years. However, to refinance a debt at this scale is not a popular idea.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Commissioner Montag called for executive session per RCW 42.30.110 (b) (c)

(b) To consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased price;

(c) To consider the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for sale or lease when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of decreased price.

However, final action selling or leasing public property shall be taken in a meeting open to the public.

Requested the attendance of Commissioners, Consultant Robert Merritt, Chief Long, Secretary Plumb and all of the Citizens task force present.

**15:35 Entered executive session at for 30 minutes.**

**16:05 Extended executive session for 5 minutes**

**16:10 reopened Public meeting.**

Commissioners looked at the 3 building redesign options for station 31 presented earlier in the meeting. It is anticipated that all 3 options are feasible with the available Bond Funds. General consensus was that option 3 looked to be the best to achieve the goals. Melinda Hiendel pointed out that if a joint use facility can be achieved with DNR the rest room facilities would have to be readdressed to accommodate capacity. The septic system will need to be rebuilt. Until we have further conversations with DNR we can take stock of our current information and move forward with surveys and price estimates for needed operational elements.

**Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Virts, Seconded by Commisisoner Connor.**

**None opposed, motion passed.**

**Meeting adjourned: 16:20**

**APPROVED BY:**

Thomas Montag 6/13/19  
Chairman – Commissioner Thomas Montag. (date)

Attest:

Rozalind Plumb  
District Secretary Rozalind Plumb

Robert Connor 6-13-19  
Commissioner Robert Connor (date)

Charles Virts 13 June 2019  
Commissioner Charles Virts (date)

# Special meeting Re Bond Project Progress

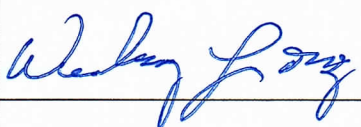
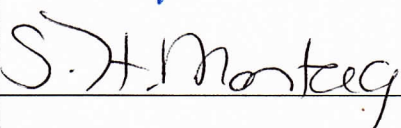

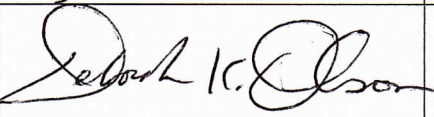
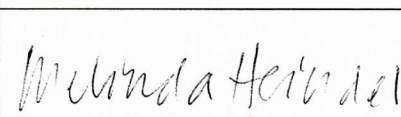
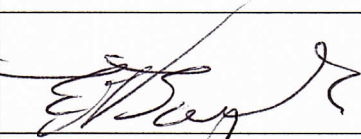

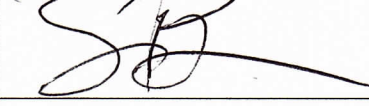

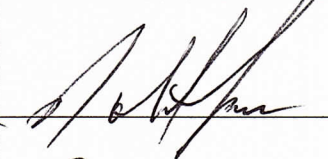
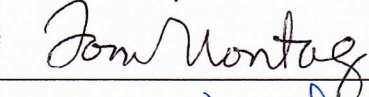

KCFD3, Commissioner's Meeting

Attendance Sign-in Sheet.

Date: 6/5/2019

Regular

Special

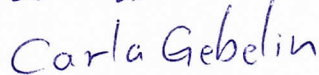
| Print Name      | Signature   | Contact Information                                |
|-----------------|---|--|
| Wes Long        |    | KCFD3.   |
| Sandy Montag    |    |  |
| Lloyd Olson     |    |  |
| Debbie Olson    |   |  |
| Melinda Heindel |    |  |
| ERIC JOSLER     |   | Stard  |
| David Roth      |  | 541 705 7918<br>Dave@GorgeSustainableInvesting.com |
| Sverre Bakke    |  | The Enterprise<br>509.493.2112                     |
| LANCE BECKMAN   |  | 275 Bates Rd.<br>White Salmon                      |
| Robert Connor   |  | sheserafarms@ <sup>gorge.net</sup>                 |
| TOM MONTAG      |  |  |
| Chuck Viets     |  |  |

Rozalind Plumb



KCFD3

Carla Gebelin



KCFD3